

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed March 31, 2006, which rejected claims 1-9, 11, 13 and 15-17, and objected to claims 10, 12, 14 and 18.

The Applicant has hereinabove amended the language of claims 1-2, 4-5 and 14-15, and cancelled without prejudice claims 6, 10-13 and 18.

Independent claim 1 now generally features "*an environmental stress monitoring module operable to monitor an atmospheric pressure of a data storage device and signal an environmental stress condition if said pressure is outside a predetermined range.*" Support for this amendment includes the previously presented language of claim 6.

Independent claim 5 now generally features "*identifying a non-temperature range environmental stress condition occurring during data storage device operation in relation to an error correction code (ECC) rate of data transduced by the device.*" Support for this amendment includes the previously presented language of claim 12.

Independent claim 15 generally features "*wherein the environmental stress monitoring module further preserves the non-temperature range parameter for potential failure analysis in the event that an apparatus failure occurs.*" Support for this amendment includes the previously presented language of claim 18.

Dependent claims 2, 4 and 14 have been amended to better conform to the subject matter of the base claims from which these claims respectively depend.

It is believed that these amendments are proper, do not introduce new matter, and serve to place the application in proper condition for reconsideration and allowance.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 13, 15 and 17 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,975,467 to Lewkowicz et al. ("Lewkowicz '467"). Claims 1-3, 5-6, 11 and 15-16 were rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,857,059 to Yamagishi ("Yamagishi '059"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Lewkowicz '467 and Yamagishi '059 each fail to disclose *"an environmental stress monitoring module operable to monitor an atmospheric pressure of a data storage device and signal an environmental stress condition if said pressure is outside a predetermined range,"* as now recited by claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and for the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested on this basis.

Lewkowicz '467 and Yamagishi '059 further each fail to disclose *"identifying a non-temperature range environmental stress condition occurring during data storage device operation in relation to an error correction code (ECC) rate of data transduced by the device,"* as now recited by claim 5. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5, and for the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested on this basis.

Lewkowicz '467 and Yamagishi '059 further each fail to disclose *"wherein the environmental stress monitoring module further preserves the non-temperature range parameter for potential failure analysis in the event that an apparatus failure occurs."*

Support for this amendment includes the previously presented language of claim 18.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15, and for the claims depending therefrom, are respectfully requested on this basis.

Allowable Subject Matter

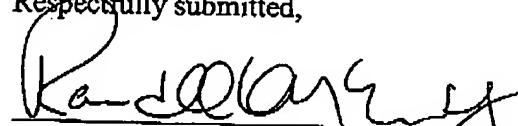
The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowability of claims 10, 12, 14 and 18.

Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application. This Response is intended to be a complete response to the final Office Action mailed March 31, 2006. Should any questions arise concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the below signed Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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